

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action dated February 9, 2005.

The Examiner indicated that claims 18, 19, 38, 39, and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 18 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 45 and 46, which should be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 12-17, 20-28, 31-37, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moricca, U.S. Patent No. 4,080,517. Moricca discloses a telephone indicator that monitors flashing lights on a telephone having up to four connected telephone lines, each line having an associated light signal indicating the status of its associated line. On the assumption that a constant light indicates a line in use, no light indicates a line not in use, a light flashing at once per second indicates a line ringing, and a light flashing twice per second indicates a line on hold, Moricca's telephone system is capable of detecting these four light patterns and outputting an audio signal unique to the status of each line so that a hearing impaired person can operate the phone. The Examiner concedes that the system of Moricca is not detachably connected to the telephone, but argues that this feature is obvious.

The system of Moricca is in no way programmable by a user, nor would it be obvious to modify the system of Moricca to be user-programmable. First, given that Moricca only discloses four audio signals for each line, each of which is associated with a predetermined light pattern, there would be no need for user-programming. Second, given that the system of Moricca is not expressly disclosed as detachable from its associated phone, the system of Moricca must be preprogrammed in a manner that obviates any necessity for a user to adapt the audio system to the phone's lights.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of "a user-programmable processor operatively connected to said receptor member so as to receive said respective electrical signals from said receptor member . . . " and "said user-programmable processor being capable of causing said audio member to emit said audio signal when said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member and said light emitting member emits said light signal." As stated previously, Moricca neither expressly discloses the claimed user-programmable

processor, nor would it be of any benefit to modify the system of Moricca to be user programmable. Therefore, independent claim 1, along with its dependent claims 2-8, 12-17, and 20, are patentably distinguishable over Moricca and should be allowable.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of “plural receptor members, each having one or more light-receiving members . . . [and each] detachably connectable to a light-emitting member capable of emitting light in a plurality of states” and “a processor selectively, operatively connected connectable to more than one said receptor member so as to simultaneously receive said respective electrical signals from connected said receptor members.” Though Moricca discloses a receptor member connected to a light emitting member and a processor connected to the receptor member, the system of Moricca is disclosed to be an integrated unit. Moricca neither discloses nor suggests a system where a claimed processor is selectively connectable to plural claimed receptor members. Accordingly, independent claim 21, along with its dependent claims 22, 31-37, and 40 are patentably distinguishable over Moricca and should be allowable.

Independent claim 41 has been amended to include the limitation of a “user-programmable processor” which as stated previously, patentably distinguishes claim 41 over Moricca. Claim 41 should therefore be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 29, and 30 under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Moricca and Nelson, U.S. Patent No. 6,775,381. The Examiner’s rejection is overcome by the amendments to independent claims 1 and 21 previously discussed, from which claims 9-10 and 29-30 respectively depend. Therefore independent claims 9, 10, 29, and 30 should be allowable.

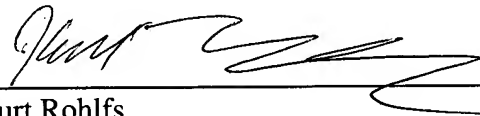
The applicant has added new claim 43 which includes the limitation of “said receptor member being detachably connectable to at least two of a computer, a computer display, a telephone display, a fax machine display, computer printer display, a modem, a PDA, or a network router.” This limitation is neither disclosed nor suggested by Moricca because, as stated previously, Moricca bundles a receptor member to a telephone as a single, non-detachable unit. Moreover, Moricca’s unit only works with a telephone. Therefore, there is neither the disclosure

nor suggestion to modify Moricca's receptor member to be detachably connectable to anything other than a telephone. Therefore new claim 43 is patentably distinguishable over Moricca and should be allowable.

The applicant has added new claim 44 which includes the limitations of "a receptor member having one or more light-receiving members, each light receiving member capable of generating a respective electrical signal in response to light incident on said light-receiving member" and a "processor [that] prioritizes electrical signals from said light sensitive devices into a sequence and processes the electrical signals in said sequence." Though Moricca discloses a receptor member having a light receiving member each associated with a respective blinking light of a telephone line, at no point does Moricca disclose prioritizing signals from the light receiving members into a sequence nor processing the signals in that sequence. Therefore, new claim 44 is patentably distinguishable over Moricca and should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-46.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Rohlf", is written over a horizontal line.

Kurt Rohlf
Reg. no. 54,405
Tel No.: (503) 227-5631